

What Alaska Leaders Are Saying about the Leadership Forum...

What you're doing in developing an economic model that will work, involving all the people in the rural area, I think, is really commendable.

Ted Stevens, *U.S. Senate President Pro Tempore*

[The Forum] brings the best minds from around the world together around the question of how to help our Native people adapt and survive the challenges of the future without compromising that which is special and that which is sacred.

Lisa Murkowski, *United States Senator*

Can we build a strong economy and then perpetuate, if you will, some of the ideals that were established by our forefathers, the pioneers, our Native elders and others? And that's the uniqueness of the quality of life associated with Alaska and the reason why we're here.

Frank Murkowski, *Governor of Alaska*

Can we begin to try to create new standards and forge new boundaries and create the kind of Alaska for all of us that we have an innate vision of? That's the wonder of what AFN has been poking and probing and dragging us to [these forums] the last several years under Julie's leadership, and that is to look at our world in different ways and as a consequence, create a new and better one.

Byron I. Mallot, *Distinguished Tlingit Clan Leader, Yakutat*

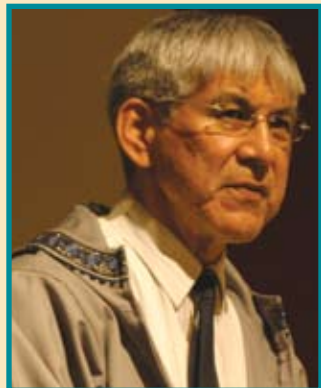
What National Leaders Are Saying about the Leadership Forum...

This forum is an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, discuss important topics, and learn about new strategies to advance Alaska's and our country's economies.

President George Bush

Today's summit is evidence that you are making strong progress in acknowledging and embracing these realities. By coming together today from different communities and regions across the state, you realize that communities are stronger when they stand together than when they stand alone.

Suzanne Haik Terrell, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs & Communications, U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration*



Tim Towarak
CoChair, AFN



Sen. Albert Kookesh
CoChair, AFN

Forum Highlights Report

LEADERSHIP FORUM



Fostering Innovation, Economic Growth & Shared Prosperity

**Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage, Alaska**

**JULY
6 & 7
2006**

Alaska Federation of Natives



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Dear Friends,

From the beginning of my term as President of AFN, I have had several beliefs (or hunches) that I have been testing. The first is that Alaska Natives, shaped by our unique history and experience, have unlimited potential to accomplish anything we set our minds to. Second, we have a very strong sense of unity, which must be consciously strengthened, which is the glue that binds us together in hard times, and empowers us to overcome obstacles that would destroy other peoples. Third, the historical times we live in—with the settlement of our land claims—sets the stage for a full range of choices about how we want to shape our future. While maintaining our culture and land base, we are contributing to the world we live in. And lastly, our struggles as Alaskans are the same struggles as many peoples face all over this globalizing world we live in. As you can see, this makes for fertile ground to seed new ideas that we get from others and in turn share with them our own history and vision of our future.

With support and direction from the AFN Board of Directors and a range of Native and Alaska leadership, AFN set out to bring these beliefs to a point of discussion and action. For this I am very grateful. It has energized the AFN staff and me to push forward.

This new series of Leadership Forums is AFN's bold attempt to invite and learn from the brightest minds worldwide and from our midst. Our last 2004 Leadership Forum focused on the Knowledge Economy. For many of us, it was the first time we came across the notion that human creativity and imagination is the most powerful resource to grow an economy over the long run. This year we wanted to take it two steps further by combining Economic Growth with Innovation and Shared Prosperity.

In this Forum Highlights Report, you will read an array of opinions and perspectives from local, national and international speakers on various topics from climate change to education to entrepreneurship. The audience was made up of a diverse set of leaders from the government, nonprofit and business sectors. The tone in which our discussions took place was one of high regard and mutual respect for one another. Participants showed a sincere willingness to work together, cultivate trust and keep exploring new ways to move Alaska forward.

My hope is that this report will help you two-fold. One, to recall our successes and find new ways to export some of our innovations and lessons learned to others within and outside of Alaska. Two, to remind you of the important points expressed so that they might support you in your efforts to keep reaching out to one another—despite differences—to create a better, more prosperous Alaska.

Thank you for your interest and continued support.

Warm regards,

Julie Kitka
President
Alaska Federation of Natives

DAY ONE Thursday, July 6, 2006

Welcome Remarks

Albert Kookesh & Tim Towarak, AFN Co-Chairs
Mark Begich, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
Ted Stevens, U.S. Senate President Pro Tempore
Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator
Don Young, U.S. Congressman
Suzanne Haik Terrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce

Overview: Snapshot of the Alaska Economy

Steve Colt, Associate Professor of Economics, Director of Environmental Studies at the Institute of Social & Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage

Keynote Speaker

Hernando de Soto, Peruvian Economist, Institute for Liberty & Democracy and Author of *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Works in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*
Q & A Session with Hernando de Soto

Lunch Presentation: Natural Gas Pipeline, Gov. Frank Murkowski

Strategic Dialogue: Elements of an Inclusive Economy

Moderator **Thomas R. Case**, Dean, School of Business & Public Policy, University of Alaska Anchorage

Participants

Byron I. Mallott, Board Member, Native American Bank
George Cannelos, Federal Co-Chair Denali Commission
Bernice Joseph, Executive Dean, College of Rural & Community Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Paul Applegarth, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, former President/CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation
Mike Burns, Executive Director, Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation

Seminars on *Elements of an Inclusive Economy* (See page 23–25 for descriptions.)

DAY TWO Friday, July 7, 2006

Special Speaker: Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Former Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Conference

Keynote Speaker on Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Ian Ayres, Yale Law Professor & Co-Author of *Why Not?: How to Use Everyday Ingenuity to Solve Problems Big and Small*

Strategic Dialogue—A Look Ahead: Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Our Future

Moderator **Ian Ayres**

Participants

Eugene Asicksik, President/CEO, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
Hugh Short, Vice President for Consulting Services, Alaska Growth Capital
Michelle Sparck, Founder, ArXotic Bath & Beauty Products
Lori Henry, Owner & President, L. B. Henry & Company

Q & A Session with Ian Ayres & Panelists

Seminars on Innovation & Entrepreneurship (See page 26–28 for descriptions.)

Forum Overview

On July 6 & 7, 2006, the Alaska Federation of Natives convened a leadership forum titled: ***Fostering Innovation, Economic Growth & Shared Prosperity***. The theme was chosen because of our strong belief that we need to work to change the investment climate and create conditions that will allow our people and other Alaskans to enjoy the greater life opportunities that a strong, growing, vibrant economy can provide.

AFN and forum sponsors welcomed all leaders to this inclusive forum to discuss the most pressing issues, learn from one another, seek new ways to work together, question conventional approaches and create new solutions to chronic problems that keep Alaska from reaching its utmost potential. In order to create a vision of a robust economy and a healthy society, all constituencies must be at the table.

The forum comprised of two days. Each day took on a sub-theme; the first day centered on ***Elements of an Inclusive Economy***. To lead us in this discussion, we were pleased to bring via live video conferencing **Hernando de Soto**, world-renowned Peruvian economist and author of the *Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. A strategic dialogue with a diverse set of Alaska leaders from different sectors of our economy followed his address.

Ian Ayres, Yale law professor and author of *Why Not?: How to Use Everyday Ingenuity to Solve Problems Big and Small*, kicked off the second day of the Forum, focusing on the theme of ***Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Our Future***. Both days of the Forum included a series of seminars relevant to the day's theme, as well as a selection of pivotal issues, such as climate change and pandemic influenza.

The design of the Forum was guided by the following:

1. Exploring examples of market-based approaches to economic development in rural Alaska. The forum discussions will help identify barriers, showcase successes and show how these models can be replicated and expanded. If an idea can work in one community, can it work in five? If it works in one region, can it work in three? We know we have some real success going on—how can we share insights and create even greater opportunity?

2. Raising awareness of imminent external threats to Alaska livelihoods and futures. Climate change is having a disproportionate effect on Alaska, as compared to the lower 48. How can we demonstrate that Alaskans have the wherewithal to not only survive, but also thrive in today's changing climate? Avian flu, and the possibility of a new pandemic influenza, has the potential to infect our people, making a significant number sick with a high loss of life, and overwhelming our health system. Alaska is ground zero in the U.S. for monitoring the migration of wild birds who may at some time become carriers. It's not about fear—it's about being prepared and acting to protect our people. Are we ready?

3. Revisiting the four pillars of a Knowledge Economy—Political Commitment; Education & Training; Information Infrastructure; and Innovation Systems—focusing on the vital role innovation plays as a fuel of economic growth across all sectors and industries. How can we create a stronger culture that supports innovation in Alaska? Why should we?

4. Clarifying the need for improved collaboration and stronger partnerships to create sustainable economies. How can we work together in better alignment? How can we use our knowledge and experience to create new economic alliances?

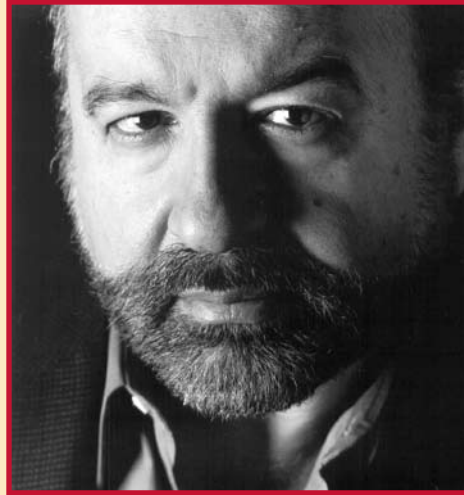
5. Investigating how economic growth, paired with poverty-reduction strategies, can provide meaningful opportunities for the segments of our population who struggle with incomes below the minimum federal poverty level. How is globalization affecting our culture in Alaska? How can we implement new strategies that offer real hope?

6. Discussing the importance of job creation and community investment as vital to rural Alaskans' survival. What incentives must exist to attract businesses and encourage investments in remote regions of Alaska? What kind of jobs are we targeting? What kind of businesses and investors do we seek to attract?

Rare is the economist who finds himself the target of terrorist bombings and assassination attempts, but Hernando de Soto is no ordinary economist. Beginning in his native Peru, de Soto has focused on a revolutionary concept that is having repercussions throughout the world's poor countries: the lack of formal property rights as the source of poverty in poor countries. His decades of pioneering work for presidents and in the streets on behalf of property rights for the poor have led to global acclaim and recognition. — Cato Inst.

From his Peruvian roots, de Soto now can be seen traveling throughout the world, meeting with current and future heads of state. De Soto tells these heads of state that their poor citizens are lacking formal legal title to their property and are unable to use their assets as collateral. They cannot get bank loans to expand their businesses or improve their properties. He and his colleagues calculate the amount of "dead capital" in untitled assets held by the world's poor as "at least \$9.3 trillion"—a sum that dwarfs the amount of foreign aid given to the developing world since 1945. — Cato Inst.

Hernando de Soto



In 2004, the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. awarded Dr. Hernando de Soto with the acclaimed Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty. The following excerpts from the Cato Institute website, cover not only the highlights of his career, but also answer

why his research findings on the relationship between property rights and capitalism have led him to become one of the most influential thinkers of our time.

In 1999, *Time Magazine* chose de Soto as one of the five leading Latin American innovators of the century. *Forbes Magazine* highlighted him as one of 15 innovators "who will re-invent your future." *The New York Times Magazine* wrote, "To the leaders of poor countries, de Soto's economic gospel is one of the most hopeful things they have heard in years." *The Economist* identified his Institute for Liberty and Democracy as one of the top two think tanks in the world.

De Soto first came to attention in his native country. In 1979, after a successful business career in Europe, 38-year-old Hernando de Soto returned to a Peru plagued by poverty and years of military rule.

Having made enough money to retire, he decided to devote his life full-time to solving the riddle of development: Why are some countries rich and others poor? De Soto knew that Peruvians did not lack entrepreneurial energy. The bustling informal economy of Lima was testament to that. Nor did they lack assets, per se. From countryside to urban shantytown, ownership was governed by a system of informally evolved and acknowledged property rights.

But as de Soto explained in his 1986 book *The Other Path*, these de facto owners were locked out of the formal, legal economy—and that was the root of the problem. "They have houses but not titles; crops but not deeds; businesses but not statutes of incorporation."

In 1980 de Soto created the **Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD)**. The more that he and his fellow researchers at the ILD investigated, the more they realized that dealing with the Peruvian state to obtain legal recognition of one's assets was maddeningly difficult, if not impossible.

Hernando de Soto has truly revolutionized our understanding of the causes of wealth and poverty. While many scholars have pointed to and explained the importance of property rights to rising living standards, de Soto has asked the hard question of what it takes to get the state to recognize the property rights that function within the communities of the poor. Can they transform the mere physical "extralegal" control of assets into capital, a key to sustained economic development?

De Soto affirms that they can attain legal status and developed a guide to the "capitalization process" for poor countries. In his activism and in his books *The Other Path* and *The Mystery of Capital*, Hernando de Soto has done much more than apply the lessons of economics to old problems; he has asked new questions and provided both new understanding and new hope for transforming poverty into wealth.

Hernando de Soto set the tone with his keynote address—sparking dialogue on indigenous property rights and land use as pivotal components of economic growth.



De Soto does not limit himself to the intellectual world. He can be seen tirelessly trudging through the impoverished streets and villages in Haiti, Peru, Egypt and Bali, meeting with sharecroppers, black-market dealers, food stand owners, local entrepreneurs and factory workers. His work with the ILD is pushing the governments of developing countries to simplify and streamline the process of granting property titles. Delivering formal property rights to the poor can bring them out of the sway of demagogues and into the extended order of the modern global economy. "Are we going to make [capitalism] inclusive and start breaking the monopoly of the Left on the poor and showing that the system can be geared to them as well?" That's de Soto's challenge and his life's work. — Cato Inst.

De Soto Shapes Forum Dialogue



Hernando de Soto joined the Leadership Forum via live satellite feed from his native Peru.

"My country is about to sign with the United States a free-trade area agreement. But the amount of Peruvians that will actually be able to benefit from that are less than 10 percent...because to be able to sign a bill of lading, something that allows you to export to a broader market, you need to be able to identify yourself commercially; you need to be able to give a full address that is easy to locate and identify. You need to say how your company is structured so everybody knows who is accountable for what. And less than 10 percent of Latin Americans can do that. And the reason they can't... is because the property systems don't work, and it's the property systems that actually are a part of the bridge that allows us to be included in the global economy." – de Soto

De Soto shared with the audience his research findings as well as his experience in various countries. He started his keynote speech by paraphrasing Walter Lippman, an influential American writer and journalist, who basically said that the market economy system has been revolutionizing our lives and wreaking havoc among us for over 200 years; and it's a revolution that hasn't finished. De Soto emphasized that this transition into a market economy, which he calls the "process of inclusion," is not only difficult, but also long. Throughout his keynote address, he referenced his native country Peru—whose majority of citizens are indigenous and minority are of European descent—as an example of a country that has had fits and starts with the transition.

According to de Soto there are three fundamentals that form the cornerstones of modern day capitalism: 1) trust, 2) the capacity to give liquidity and mobility to assets, and 3) the infrastructure—organizations, institutions, and private entities—that pull all of these pieces together. He stressed that the majority of economic value—80% to 90%—is derived from the "ability to put things together," i.e. knowledge. He holds that without containing this know-how in an organized business, a family or individual is left with solely the worth of the material object alone to pass down from generation to generation. In his studies, he's concluded that the vast majority of the world is still not eligible to enter into the global marketplace.

De Soto wrapped up his talk on a hopeful note by calling for a homegrown strategy based on cultural values and the tenants of a democracy where all who participate have a voice. He also warned against copying another economy's template in order to speed up this painstaking process that must include everyone in order for it to work across the board.

Note: The full transcript of De Soto's presentation is available at the AFN website: www.nativefederation.org.

Q & A With de Soto

ERIC McCALLUM: Do you believe that micro credit in Third World countries will be successful if we do not have a property of law in those same countries?

HERNANDO de SOTO: Micro credit is a very interesting effort to get where we all want to get, which is to make everybody creditworthy. If you think about it even in the United States it seems that about 85 percent of all the credit that is initially received by your small and medium businesses is based on some kind of property guarantee. It would seem that micro credit would have to complement itself with other forms of credit that are property-based because we don't know of any other...Micro credit is one of the front soldiers on the fighting line to be able to do so, but not the only one.

GOVERNOR WALTER HICKEL: Alaska's the only spot on earth that is run by democracy and we're called an owner state. And nearly all of our decisions are made a long ways from home...But this place called Alaska sometimes has a hard time making decisions for the benefit of its people because we're commonly owned, and that's a little foreign to the American system. Do you understand that?

HERNANDO de SOTO: If you have a position in Alaska whereby you feel that you are not ready to take the full model that the other states have, but you propose alternatives which actually work and allow your people to peacefully make a transaction to their own form of capitalism, to their own form of market economies, to me, this is necessary—this is acceptable; and it's part of the ongoing debate. At the end, what will help determine all of these things is probably nothing that has to do with the market economy, but a lot of what has to do with democracy. What are people saying in Alaska? Is this the way they want it? What are their values? And capitalism really does not make much sense without that democratic part to guide it...The important thing is that your model stays abreast of what people want and what people do.



Audience participation opened up the Forum dialogue to all participants, providing for a dynamic and productive discussion about development and growth.

"We are a world in which we have 5 billion inhabitants; and those that have been able to enter the market economy, the global economy with business structure, with corporations, with property rights, with clear identities that let them cross borders are only 1 billion. Four billion people are outside the system. And we believe it is the lack of legal instruments that allow you to perform in the market economy that is responsible." – de Soto

"In other words, there is a strategy for linking up cultures to the market economy; but it requires doing that, precisely a strategy, a strategy that respects local values the way we saw that the Japanese did in that chart. They didn't just simply take a model that was created in Germany and bring it to Japan. They, actually, first of all, found out what it is that local people want to do, how far and at what speed do they want to be included." —de Soto

Q & A With de Soto

JUDGE HUNT: When cultures and history are built on values of the collective ownership of all assets, are there major transitional events that you believe seem to be necessary to move to a market economy? And if so, can you identify what those key transitional events might be?

HERNANDO de SOTO: The only thing I can think of is: it's got to be consensual, because that's where the whole social contract pivots on. People all have to believe that whatever you're proposing actually works, and the second is leadership...At the end, the consensus must be brought together by a series of very committed elites who are able to articulate it...And some countries have the benefit of having good elites that actually are able to rise to the occasion at a historic moment, to bring those evolving consensuses together, whenever they have to be brought together; and other countries, unfortunately, don't have it.

ROSITA WORL: Have you seen that happen anywhere where people—an indigenous society with communal values—say, "Okay, we're going to codify our traditional values, but yet we want to embrace the global economy"? Is that possible?

HERNANDO de SOTO: In the document I showed before, even though fleetingly, those documents I indicated had to do with documents that had been issued by local indigenous organizations all over the world, and to try and obtain a language that allows people to identify their assets...The whole development of the world at this moment is essentially different people trying to find ways to bring together the values of the communal, of the collectivity with the opportunities that the market economy actually offers...All of us in five-sixths of the world, from Africa to Asia to Latin America to the former Soviet Union, are, as a matter of fact, in very deep debate—and conflicting debate sometimes—as to how far we should let the market economy go in the values of capitalism and what we can do so they don't destroy a way of life that we've become accustomed to. And creating that blend is, as a matter of fact, the biggest challenge today; and it is part of a living process...How do we all create a global economy in which we are all brothers and sisters in which we can increase our productivity enormously, in which we can all have our right to prosperity and at the same time not wipe out the identity that makes us who we are? We don't have the final answers. It's made up of small bits and pieces; and in taking the final steps—which Julie Kitka has been talking about, and which you seem to be doing so well—we are in the final process. There is no final formula as to how capitalism will end and which form it should take in each country.

What are your questions for Hernando de Soto? Please email them to AFN at juliekitka@nativefederation.org and put "Question for de Soto" in the subject line. We will collect them, group them into various themes and bring them with us when we next meet with Dr. de Soto.

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U.S. Congressman Don Young

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Land: A Sacred Place & An Economic Asset

Hernando De Soto's keynote address inspired and provoked much discussion over the following two days. The issue that stirred the most reaction from subsequent panelists was how to best use land and its resources to maximize economic growth and shared prosperity while preserving what is most unique about the Alaska way of life. The following are comments shared by guest speakers and panelists in plenary:

If you want to think about the economy of the future, if you want to have the opportunity for the very young people to remain in the rural areas, there has to be diversification; there has to be employment other than government; there has to be development of the resources which have been given to you—of the 44 million acres and the \$1 billion.

Don Young, U.S. Congressman

As a United States Senator for 22 years, [I] felt that the future of Alaska lay to a large degree in the land ownership and the structure of the 12 regional corporations as they owned the subsurface and the villages owned the surface, and the recognition, the advancement of that structure.

Frank Murkowski, Governor of Alaska

We wanted to keep the institution in the ownership of Alaska Natives more because the corporations were the repositories of Native lands...Alaska Native lands, which in any other corporation would be among the most fungible and valued of assets to be utilized in any way able to maximize economic value, are not viewed that way by any Alaska Native corporation. Native lands—44 million acres—are viewed in many ways as a sacred trust for future generations. And it had been a process that had been underway for over a century of relationship with the larger society, but we've evolved. We have moved to a different place, a place in which we can have a discussion like this...The notion that Hernando de Soto put forth this morning that there can be consensus is amorphously right now, but certainly, we believe, potentially out there. That was not the case just a generation ago, and it has transformed the dialogue.

Byron I. Mallott, Distinguished Tlingit Clan Leader

Land: A Sacred Place & An Economic Asset



Professor Steve Colt

I think some people would argue—and Dr. de Soto may wish to comment on this—that we suffer from a lack of land in private ownership. And this is just a reminder that 44 million acres are in Native Corporation ownership. Some of you may define that as private; others may not.

Steve Colt, *Associate Professor of Economics and Director of Environmental Studies at the Institute of Social & Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage*

I'm from the Midwest originally, and economic development there was pretty straightforward: You live by the sword of economics; you die by the sword of economics. I totally reject that paradigm for Alaska, especially rural Alaska. Our places in Alaska are very different. They're not created by economics, but are created by culture. And the question that must be asked, especially now, during a political season, is: Are we committed to the survival of these cultures? And not just in terms of economic value, but pure cultural value...It is very challenging to deliver economic financial services across such a wide geography with so few people. I think the banks do a much better job, the closer they are to their branches; but the branches are there because that area is successful. [However,] if we don't answer that first question I put forward that this is not just vital to Alaska, it is Alaska, then I think we are rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.

Mike Burns, *Executive Director, Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation*

Ten Trends that Impact Alaska's Economic Future

1. While as a state we are getting closer and closer to less reliance on government jobs and more reliance on private-sector jobs, many of these private sector jobs are paid for by federal spending.
2. The Permanent Fund roughly generates more income than oil production itself.
3. Oil production accounts for less than half of the total contribution of oil to jobs.
4. More than 40% of all private-sector jobs are with firms that have an average size of only six people.
5. As of 2003, Alaska led the nation in the percentage of households with actual Internet connections and actual use.
6. Less than 6 million acres, roughly 1 to 1.5% of the total land base, is in private ownership as we associate it with our legal system.
7. The lower 48 will be heading into a baby bust, thus improving the chances for young people heading into the workforce in the continental U.S. to obtain jobs; while Alaska is in the midst of a teenager boom, especially in rural areas.
8. Tourism and air cargo are Alaska's two fastest growing new industries.
9. Tourism now rivals seafood as the state's largest employment sector.
10. Air cargo has become a significant generator of jobs.

From Professor Colt's Leadership Forum Presentation



Outside the formal plenary sessions, forum participants networked and shared ideas.

Strategic Dialogue: Elements Of An Inclusive Economy

The dialogue that followed Hernando de Soto's keynote address centered on the opportunities that exist in Alaska to participate in society and in the economy, which in turn provides a sense of well-being to Alaskans. The panelists each examined a different element that contributes to an inclusive economy. The following are excerpts from each panelist's perspective:



Byron Mallott & George Canelos
The Leadership Forum united innovators from diverse locations and disciplines to collaborate and learn from one another.

The notion of an inclusive economy, and it's something that I've always had a hesitancy about, when we talk about us as peoples, to frame who we are, where we are, and where we're going in the context of the economy. To me it's all about an inclusive society, an economy is a piece of that, certainly a powerful driver; but it is not why we exist.

Byron I. Mallott, *Distinguished Tlingit Clan Leader*

But in an inclusive economy, we need people asking the hard questions. Nothing is off the table; and we need a climate of openness to hear the good ideas, no matter where they come from...or what brand the person is wearing at the time.

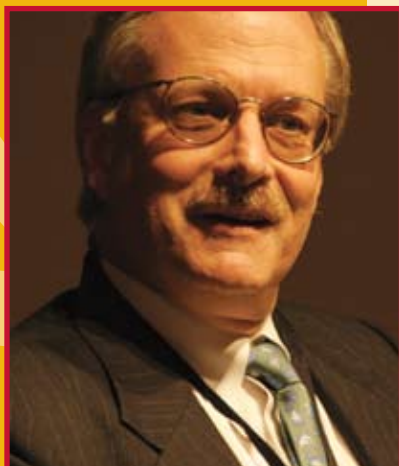
George Canelos, *Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission*

This whole notion of an inclusive economy, I think, as it relates to education, some of the key components of that are place-based education; and the importance of having the rural education centers in the places they're located; [they] really serve a strong purpose in providing education to primarily Native Alaskans in their home communities or regions.

Bernice Joseph, *Executive Dean, College of Rural & Community Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks*

The role of external actors is helping to develop that kind of inclusiveness where people are creating their own jobs, creating their own opportunities for reducing poverty and creating wealth. It seems to me that is the broader definition of inclusiveness.

Paul Applegarth, *Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, founding President/CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation*



Paul Applegarth

Professor Steven Jackstadt, Director of the Center for Economic Education at the University of Alaska, researched the theme of an inclusive society and economy across academic literature and publications. He uncovered three main categories below; and underneath each major thrust are the specific elements.

An inclusive economy and society is one that...

1. Generates Reasonable Levels of Income and Wealth by:

- Providing appropriate educational opportunities to all of its citizens
- Maintaining and protecting property rights, contracts and rule of law
- Promoting competition
- Encouraging innovation
- Promoting savings and welcoming investment
- Maintaining fiscal responsibility

2. Promotes Social Cohesion and Connectedness by:

- Facilitating the participation of people with physical and mental disabilities, ethnic minorities and immigrants in the community
- Encouraging behaviors like voluntary compliance with paying taxes, meeting the responsibilities that go with receiving cash, in-kind benefits from the community and other forms of personal responsibility
- Discouraging bigotry and criminal behavior

3. Helps its Citizens Achieve Well-Being by:

Allowing time for and expanding opportunities into work in areas where people feel fulfillment, such as recreational activities, maintaining personal relationships, creating art and the development of spiritual or cultural identity.

During the two day forum, participants from village corporations, government agencies and a wide range of businesses learned from a distinguished array of speakers and from one another.





Senator Lisa Murkowski



Dean Thomas Case



Suzanne Haik-Terrell delivered President George W. Bush's message to forum participants.

Opportunities & Challenges Posed by Alaska Leaders to the Forum Audience

Several years ago, [we] came together to recognize that as much as our Native people want things to stay the same and to be left alone, the price of ignoring the reality of the 21st century is a threat to the survival of the Native people. We came to grips with the notion that if we do not beat the 20th century epidemics of alcohol and drugs once and for all, they will forever hold our children in poverty. Poverty is a tough word. That's a word that used to be taboo in our Native communities. It was taboo because poverty infers reliance on the material things for one's happiness; and it was held that if one lives in the traditional Native way, one is wealthy, even though you may lack riches in the material sense. And we must appreciate that self-sufficiency is the way out of poverty, just as it has been the way out of every other challenge that has threatened our Native peoples for generations and generations.

Lisa Murkowski, *United States Senator*

So, our challenges of being able to figure out how to preserve the heartfelt portions of our cultures in that arena where we also are able to survive economically, is a critical thing for our state.

Thomas Case

Dean of the University of Alaska's School of Policy & Business

As I go back to Washington and I try to educate well-intended but gravely uninformed policymakers about Alaska, I need and we need to be able to tell this story more powerfully and more effectively. And we're not doing that great a job of it...We convened a group of about 20 folks, and we tried to put down in writing what the values in rural Alaska worth fighting for are. What are they? Why should anybody in D.C. care? And as obvious as those things are, they're hard to put down.

George Canelos, *Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission*

So I leave you with the five new realities of the 21st century as we see them at the Department of Commerce. We are in a global economy; the pace will continue to accelerate; the component of competitiveness can no longer be pursued separately; partnership with the private sector is critical; and our ability to innovate is America's competitive advantage.

Suzanne Haik Terrell, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs & Communications, U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration*

The climate for economic development is in trouble now. I know of nothing more important for all of us than to have a final decision on the gas pipeline and get it moving because once it starts, the climate for development should come.

Ted Stevens, *U.S. Senate President Pro Tempore*

The tourism industry did a survey of what some of the things were that visitors missed or did not see and wished that they experienced in Anchorage. And one of the things that came up was the experience of the Alaska Native culture, which to some in the business community was surprising...but it's something that we have embarked on and hope to change.

Mark Begich, *Mayor of Anchorage*

We obviously have oil and gas, timber and fish, minerals and tourism. How can we develop...in a responsible manner, [in] conformance and concern for the environment and the ecology?

Frank Murkowski, *Governor of Alaska*

We as Native people also have to embrace in ways that we haven't before the whole notion of inclusiveness, and just think about what power rural Alaska can really be if all of rural Alaska came to Anchorage with a single voice.

Byron I. Mallott, *Distinguished Tlingit Clan Leader*

For prosperity, economic development must empower the communities of the Arctic, and must help create a society where our young people want to live and embrace life...We have to be careful, I think, not to create small-scale versions of large economies where work exists in very pre-defined packages of jobs only.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, *Former Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Conference*

The goal is to get 250 First Nations [students] on the Ph.D. track.

Bernice Joseph, *Executive Dean College of Rural & Community Development University of Alaska Fairbanks*



Senator Ted Stevens



Mayor Mark Begich



Dean Bernice Joseph

President George W. Bush's Message to the Leadership Forum Audience

The strength of the American economy is built on the hard work and innovation of our workforce. Minority businesses are a key component of the American economy and reflect the values that make our economy—our country—strong. Through vision and determination, Alaska Natives are broadening opportunities for themselves and others and contributing to the prosperity of our nation. By providing education, advocacy and networking programs, the AFN helps enhance Alaska Native business activities, build community and address issues to improve the lives of our citizens. This Forum is an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, discuss important topics and learn about new strategies to advance Alaska's and our country's economies.

Since August of 2003, our economy has created more than 5.3 million jobs, and more Americans are working than ever before. My Administration is committed to expanding minority business ownership and fostering an environment that encourages economic growth and vitality. We are providing Small Business Administration loans at record rates, working to make tax relief permanent, addressing the growing burden of frivolous lawsuits, reducing excessive regulations and confronting the rising cost of health care.

I applaud AFN members for promoting community development. Your efforts inspire others to reach for the American dream and help our workforce remain the most productive and prosperous in the world.

With best wishes,

Laura and President George Bush

Sheila Watts-Cloutier Special Speaker on Climate Change

AFN welcomed Sheila Watts-Cloutier as the Special Speaker to talk about her views on Climate Change and its impact on the Alaska economy. Now the former President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Canada, Sheila stopped in Anchorage en route to chairing her final ICC conference, which took place on July 9th in Barrow. She handed over the reigns of the ICC presidency to Patricia Cochran there, the Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier has made it her life's work to preserve the environment and advocate for the people of the circumpolar region. Born in the tiny community of Kuujuaq in Northern Quebec, Ms. Watt-Cloutier was raised traditionally on the land for ten years, before attending school in Churchill, Manitoba. She currently makes her home in Iqaluit.

Here are a few excerpts from Sheila Watt-Cloutier's speech at the Leadership Forum on July 7th:

So, what does it mean for Alaska, here in Alaska? Well, in particular, for leaders across the Arctic, it means that we need to get our own house in order so that we can demand that of others. It



Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Former Chair,
Inuit Circumpolar Conference

means that we never underestimate the influence of what we can do to help change the world. It means our business leaders must ensure that all operations are as efficient as possible and release the minimal amount of greenhouse gases and that the remaining greenhouse gases must be offset to find credit to ensure that aboriginal businesses and organizations are carbon neutral...We must demand that the governments require the same of others so the economic playing field is level and we're not penalized for our forward-thinking investments. I also think we need to start taking a stewardship approach to all of the products and services that our businesses produce. For example, I think that oil and gas development can be done in a way that is sensitive to local, environmental, social and cultural needs, as well as being carbon neutral.

The choice is ours, as a society, to make. Will we be courageous enough to make those right choices? Will our economic development contribute to the reduction of global emissions? Will we refuse to be enticed by only the almighty dollar, and expand our definition of prosperity to ensure that we are creating a society where our young people want to live? I believe that we can make those right choices; and I'm very convinced that in a world that is desperately seeking sustainability, our business leaders, wherever they are, can be guided based on the ancient wisdom of our culture that will break us out of the same well-worn path of economic development that creates dependencies, because we don't want to be in the business of creating dependencies. We want to be building institutions that are dependency liberating, not dependency producing, because that's the root of many of the problems that we face in our communities; and that is so important. And so, after all, though, who better understands the connectivity of all things and can bring forward a practical holistic vision more than the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, we who have lived and sustained ourselves all of these years? And for our grandchildren, do we have any choice?

Professor Ian Ayres, Keynote Speaker On Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Professor Ian Ayres is a lawyer and an economist. He is the William K. Townsend Professor at Yale Law School and a Professor at Yale's School of Management. He is the editor of the *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*. Professor Ayres is a regular commentator on public radio's *Marketplace*; he's a columnist for *Forbes Magazine*; and he regularly writes op eds for the *New York Times*. Professor Ayres addressed the forum audience by talking about his latest book on the theme of innovation titled *Why Not?: How to Use Everyday Ingenuity to Solve Problems Big and Small* (2003) (with Barry Nalebuff).

Before Professor Ayres jumped into sharing his tools of for creating innovations, he gave the Alaska people kudos, noting innovations such as the kayak, the Alaska Permanent Fund, 7(i) revenue sharing and many more unique contributions. He is a firm believer that creativity can be taught. He noted two basic ways to approach problem solving:

One is the traditional one. You start with a problem; and you—you start with a problem, you look for a solution, but I want to emphasize there's a whole different approach. It's very successful and often overlooked. That's starting with a solution and looking for problems to solve.

Professor Ian Ayres encouraged the audience to be creative and challenge the status quo by using common sense to approach complicated questions.



Professor Ian Ayres, Keynote Speaker On Innovation & Entrepreneurship

The four tools he likes to teach to people who want to be more creative are as follows:

1. What would Croesus do? Another way to ask this is, "What would Donald Trump, or any super rich person, do?" Usually the answer is that he would hire someone, but the question would then force you to determine who is the most logical person, organization or entity to solve the problem. Example: filing state taxes. In California the state treasurer mails out to taxpayers a completed tax form already done because they have all of the information needed, and all the taxpayer needs to do is verify that it is correct and mail it back, with or without a check.

2. Why aren't you feeling my pain? This is about getting away with something when others pay the price for you and therefore you don't feel other people's pain (or visa versa). Example: In most states, women drive about 60 percent as many miles as men do, so insurance companies tend to overcharge women with the standard insurance premiums, making it unfair to women in general. The solution here is why not have pay-per-mile insurance for everyone, and that way no one is burdened by some else's over use?

3. Would flipping it work? Professor Ayres sighted examples of an upside down Christmas tree for tiny New York City apartments; they sold out of inventory at \$599. Another example where this literally worked was the Heinz Ketchup bottle, where as he pointed out, they simply flipped the label on the bottle. Two more culinary examples of flipping it were peeling bananas and eating sushi—try it yourself to see. His favorite one as a professor is making his students raise their hands when they don't know the answer in class. And finally, why not have telemarketers pay you for your time when taking their surveys by giving them your own 900 telephone number for them to call that credits you with money? In all cases, one is pleasantly surprised with the outcomes as they yield unforeseen beneficial results.

4. Where else would it work? The most self explanatory of all, Professor Ayres gave several examples such as a season passes—ski resorts have them, why not movie theaters? Another one: the IRS allows us to contribute to our retirement accounts all the way up until April 15th, so why not do the same with charitable contributions?

David Hoffman, president and CEO of Alaska Growth Capital, gave a glowing introduction of Professor Ian Ayres.



Strategic Dialogue–A Look Ahead Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Our Future

Professor Ayres' keynote to launch the Forum's second day was followed by a strategic dialogue. According to his book, *Why Not?: How to Use Everyday Ingenuity to Solve Problems Big and Small*, the power to innovate is in all of us. Guided by Professor Ayres, each panelist shared his or her motivations and experiences with innovation and entrepreneurship in the Alaska communities in which they work.

PANELISTS

Eugene Asicksik, *President/CEO, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation*

Lori Henry, *Trainer, Facilitator & Project Manager and Owner & President, L. B. Henry & Company*

Hugh Short, *Vice President for Consulting Services, Alaska Growth Capital*

Michelle Sparck, *Founder, ArXotic Bath & Beauty Products*

Eugene Asicksik started off the dialogue explaining some of the trials and tribulations with the remarkable Community Development Quota (CDQ) program in his region.

When the CDQ program was first talked about, I looked at the program and I saw an opportunity for the communities, where they will have cash, and it's coming from the bottom up, not coming from the top down. This was not the government coming in and doing something for you but instead, you'll have an opportunity to do things for yourself.



Forum participants interacted with presenters and panelists throughout the two day forum, sharing ideas and asking important questions.

The CDQ program has been a remarkable success creating new wealth for coastal communities—over half a billion dollars spread over five regions of coastal villages. While the leadership that has spent years developing the CDQ program has worked tirelessly, Eugene also pointed out a few obstacles at the village level that make these programs difficult to implement, such as coordination issues between the regions, the incentives driving

Strategic Dialogue–A Look Ahead Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Our Future

land conveyance, the negative impact of Western religions on tribal communities, and the various levels of government that make coordination cumbersome. Due to time constraints, we were unable to delve into potential opportunities to further develop the CDQ program. It was noted that the CDQ program is a remarkable grassroots-driven community program with great potential for future scaling up and replication across Alaska.

Michelle Sparck then took the audience through her public sector career in Washington, D.C. and in her hometown. She found that with the help and support of her elders and community, she could take a risk and create something completely new using traditional knowledge that is uniquely from Alaska and market that new product to the world. She noted that this is also a form of self-sufficiency that she can bring as a model to her village.



We know it's beneficial. Why don't we make a fine product? Let's make a fine skin care product to share with the world at a limited level. We don't want to compete with subsistence...We would like to keep the Cupik and Inuit values engrained in our corporate structure; so, it would be really exciting to see how that goes.

As consultants in rural Alaska, **Lori Henry** and **Hugh Short** gave similar perspectives on the obstacles that deter villages from reaching their creative potentials.

I think that each of us, we have our own fear of taking risks and being failures in our small communities. It's not nurtured to be natural.
– Lori Henry

I think a lot of what we struggle with as organizations in Alaska is being able to innovate. We're scared. We're afraid. Our idea is stupid. "I've got a great idea, but I'm not going to say it. They're going to laugh at me."
– Hugh Short

Strategic Dialogue—A Look Ahead Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Our Future

So what are they doing about these challenges? Lori talked about looking back and combining her western models with Alaska Native ones.

Sometimes it's hard to maintain a positive attitude when there's a lot of negative energy swirling around in our communities. The biggest thing for me is re-learning traditional Inupiaq approaches to problem solving. In all of the years of being taught Western corporate models, process stuff, I'm nearly 50 now, so I'm going back and spending a lot of time with our Elders and learning more traditional approaches.

Hugh took another approach and led the audience through a series of short exercises that help overcome artificial harmony and build trust; his parting words were a challenge to us all.

The challenge is to transform our Alaska Native organizations into innovation centers to allow new ideas and creativity to prosper. What this comes down to is that you've got big ideas for two days. What are you going to do personally to make those happen?

A series of seminars that exhibited more examples of innovation and entrepreneurship in action followed the Strategic Dialogue. The quality shared by all of the panelists and seminar speakers was that each is working in their professions, serving as catalysts for positive change, and in doing so are taking risks.

The second day was designed to give participants the space to move beyond the analysis of issues and obstacles discussed to that point—land ownership, pipelines, avian flu, climate change coordination, trust, leadership—to create innovative solutions to those issues and obstacles.

Whether it was hearing an inspiring speaker, learning a new model in a seminar, applying *Why Not?* tools or deciding to submit an idea to the next Alaska Marketplace, AFN hopes that all Forum participants saw value in the Forum. Two days is a short timeframe and we at AFN hope that everyone carried back with them not only new ideas to test, but perhaps more importantly, new contacts and relationships to grow. It's our belief that fostering a new network of leaders across sectors and businesses will lead us to a more inclusive and unified society; one where we can all create a network of self-sufficient communities based on mutual trust and respect.

**"Be the change you want to see in the world."
Mahatma Gandhi**

Seminars on Elements of an Inclusive Economy

1. 8(a) Government Contracting—An Economic Model

What are likely future legislative and regulatory proposals that may impact Native American contractors? What are the federal market trends of Alaska Native corporations with the largest federal customer? What are the social and economic impacts of 8(a) government contracting with Alaska Native corporations? The Native American Contractors Association explored these and other questions. Panelists also highlighted how the program has benefited local shareholders and communities.

Karen Atkinson, *Executive Director, Native American Contractors Association (Moderator)*

Matt Krepps, *Economist*

Frank M. Ramos, *Director, Office of Small Business Programs, U.S. Department of Defense*

2. Poverty Reduction Link to Economic Growth

This panel explored how locally driven poverty reduction strategies tied to benchmarks and measurable results can lead to sustainable economic growth. Mr. Applegarth shared his experience in starting the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a new U.S. government corporation designed to support innovative strategies and to ensure accountability for measurable results in development. The panel discussed how Alaska's rural villages can apply lessons learned from over 50 years of international economic development.

Ralph Andersen, *Bristol Bay Native Association (Moderator)*

Paul Applegarth, *Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, founding President/CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation*

Myron Naneng, *Association of Village Council Presidents*

3. Climate Change: Are Alaska Natives Sentries for the Rest of the World?

Evidence of climate change is undeniable in rural Alaska and has fundamentally forced Alaskans to change the way they relate to their environment. The rest of the world watches in amazement as the homes of our Alaska Native neighbors in Shismaref fall into the Bering Sea and compel village relocation. How can Alaskans move from "sentries," serving as a warning to the rest of the world, to proactive visionaries who tackle the challenge of climate change with ingenuity and courage? What actions have to be taken now to reverse this livelihood-threatening trend?

Patricia Cochran, *Executive Director, Alaska Native Science Commission (Moderator)*

Jim Berner, *Director, Office of Community Health Services, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*

Alan Parkinson, *Director, Arctic Investigations Program, Centers for Disease Control*

Mike Bradley, *Program Manager, Traditional Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*

Deborah Williams, *President, Alaska Conservation Solutions*

Seminars on Elements of an Inclusive Economy

4. Current Issues in Energy & Development

Affordable energy is the keystone of real, sustainable economic development in rural Alaska. The panel provided a variety of perspectives—local, state, national and international—on energy development issues in Alaska, from the high cost of energy in rural Alaska to the prospect of a natural gas pipeline. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a revitalized role in energy and economic development—what does that mean for Alaska? What role does energy play in an inclusive economy?

Nels Anderson, Jr., *Chairman, Bristol Bay Alternative Energy Task Force (Moderator)*

Robert W. Middleton, *Director, Office of Indian Energy & Economic Development, Department of Interior*

Christof Ruehl, *Deputy Chief Economist for BP Group*

Mike Harper, *Deputy Director, Rural Energy, Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority*

5. Information Systems & Infrastructure: The Backbone for Workforce Development & Continuing Education in a Knowledge Economy

In a globalizing world, more state and national economies are realizing that their biggest returns on investment over the long run are those made in their people. Modern information infrastructures are integral to economies in transition from old to new. Without the means for effective communication, dissemination and processing of information and knowledge, how can Alaska keep pace with the rising service and knowledge economies coming “online” year after year? What is being done about public accessibility to this infrastructure, which is predominantly in the hands of the private sector?

Chris Buchholdt, *Executive Director, Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Moderator)*

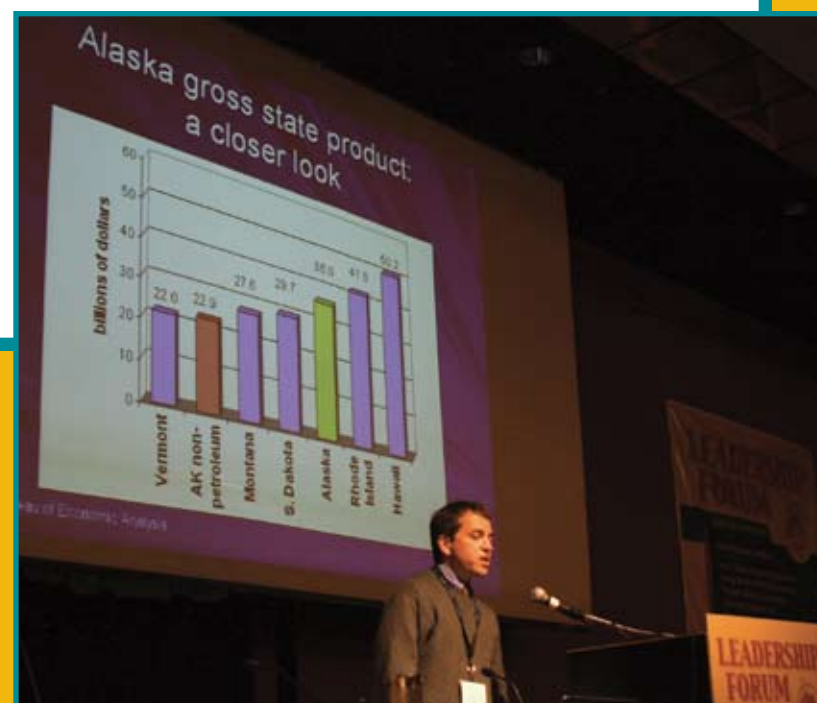
Frank Martinez, *Intel, Worldwide Director of Digital Inclusion and Government Assisted PC Programs*

Lisa Sutherland, *Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation (invited)*

Ron Duncan, *CEO, GCI*

Fletcher Brown,
Vice President Communications, Tamsco

Professor Steve Colt illustrated core economic principles that impact the Alaska economy.



Seminars on Elements of an Inclusive Economy

6. Investing in Entrepreneurs Beyond Scholarships & Grants: Investments that Yield Lasting Returns

The panel explored how ANCSA corporations can be agents of rural economic growth through their investment choices. New investment approaches such as “Community Investing” and “Social Venture Investing” can be both sound investments and effective models for community development that give lower-income people, who are underserved by the traditional financial services, a chance to be business owners.

Kirsten L. Gagnaire, *Principal, Social Enterprise Group, LLC (Moderator)*

Sheri D. Buretta, *Chairman of the Board, Chugach Alaska Corporation*

David Berge, *President & Founder, Underdog Ventures, LLC*

David Hoffmann, *President/CEO, Alaska Growth Capital*

Terzah Tippin Poe, *Communications Manager/External Affairs, Shell Exploration & Production*

7. Global Best Practices in Logistics: The Wal-Mart Experience

Wal-Mart is a recognized world leader in logistics. They have developed their own systems and approaches that have worked, and they continue to improve. Alaska has many fine examples of best practices in logistics—whether you are talking the oil and gas sector or air cargo. How can we use the lessons learned and apply it to other sectors in rural Alaska? What kinds of partnerships are possible which could drive down the cost of building rural infrastructure, the cost of supplying rural hospitals and clinics, or even village stores? Is Wal-Mart interested in “mentoring” efforts in Alaska? How we can leverage what we know to make this happen? The panel discussed these issues and engaged the audience in further conversation.

Oliver Hedgepeth, *Associate Professor of Logistics and Chair of the Logistics Department, University of Alaska Anchorage (Moderator)*

Tim Yatsko, *Senior Vice President, Transportation for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*

Elisha (Bear) Baker, IV, *Professor of Logistics, University of Alaska Anchorage*

TIME TO NETWORK!

This session allowed time to get to know fellow Forum leaders over tasty appetizers and light refreshments. Making contacts, learning about new trends, and sharing your ideas are all essential ingredients to becoming effective leaders, influencers and innovators. A networking consultant led the group through a proven method of networking that has been adopted by many Fortune 500 companies and conferences nationwide. The exercise is called the Reciprocity Ring™ and it was a fun, non-threatening way to make real and useful connections have lasted beyond this two day conference. This networking workshop was co-hosted and co-facilitated by Alaska InvestNet.

Alana Martin, *Reciprocity Ring™ Facilitator, Humax Corporation*

Seminars on Innovation & Entrepreneurship

1. Social Entrepreneurship for Nonprofit & Tribal Consortiums

The challenge of “Doing More with Less” to a social entrepreneur would be: “What activities yield more with less?” This panel explored the attributes and characteristics of entrepreneurial thinking in a not-for-profit setting. Whether an individual manages a large regional nonprofit or a dozen people working for the same cause, this seminar provided ideas for change and offered fresh outlooks and approaches.

Kirsten L. Gagnaire, *Principal, Social Enterprise Group, LLC (Moderator)*

Gloria O'Neill, *President/CEO, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.*

David Berge, *President/Founder, Underdog Ventures, LLC*

2. Financing Your Start-Up: Identifying & Overcoming Barriers to Becoming a Business-Owner

Small businesses comprise the backbone of a healthy and thriving economy. For many individuals unexposed to business management training, starting a business can be daunting and the resulting mistakes can be far-reaching. The panel explores the growing network that gives aspiring entrepreneurs the skills and knowledge to turn their dreams into reality without the nightmare of losing their homes and personal property. Predatory lending was discussed along with helpful tips and advice for starting and sustaining a business through smart borrowing.

Jean Wall, *Director, Small Business Development Center University of Alaska Anchorage (Moderator)*

Larry Snider, *CEO, Consumer Credit Counseling of Alaska*

Matt Fitzgerald, *Vice President/Manager of the Wells Fargo Anchorage Business Banking Group*

Dean Stewart, *Director of Business Programs, U.S.D.A.*

Tim Melican, *Owner, The Magic Bus*

3. 8(a) Government Contracting— Job Creation in Villages

Creating jobs in rural Alaska communities is challenging and requires innovative thinking. One approach that combines an intertribal business model with the creative use of the SBA 8(a) program to generate jobs has had demonstrated successes on Indian reservations and in remote Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities. How can these efforts be replicated and expanded? How can additional communities become involved?

Dan Press, *Van Ness Feldman Law Firm (Moderator)*

Edgar Blatchford, *Acting President*

Alaska Villages for Employment & Economic Opportunities, LLC

Allison Nyholm, *Associate Director, Alaska Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.*

Seminars on Innovation & Entrepreneurship

4. Native Internet Empowerment & Rural E-Commerce Strategies

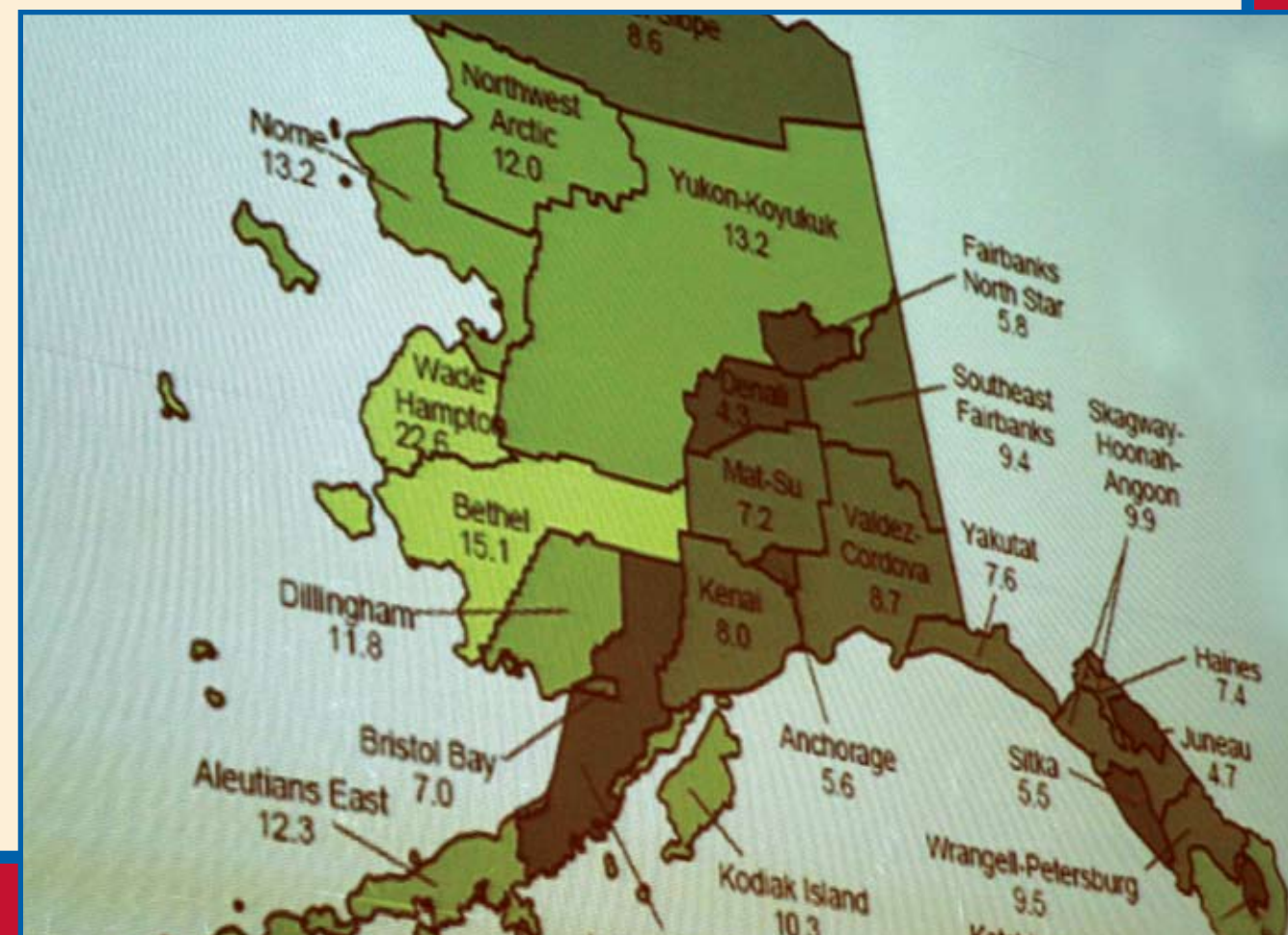
We are raising the first digital generation of youth in an ever-flattening world. Learn how indigenous cultures from Australia, South America, the U.S., Canada and Alaska are using the Internet to strengthen cultures and rural economies in a rapidly changing global economy. Exciting new initiatives and resources will be shared regarding Alaska's E-RAVEN Ecommerce project (Rural Alaska Village Ecommerce Network) and the emerging Whole Village project. Alaska Native resources have been created to support Alaska Native villages and include village grant templates, Rural Ecommerce online lessons and Alaska Native cultural web tours.

Carrie Irwin Brown, *Executive Director, Alaska Native Arts Foundation (Moderator)*

Frank Odasz, *Indigenous & Rural Internet Empowerment Expert for 15 years*

Eric Downey, *Manager, Rural Alaska Village E-commerce Network,
Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership*

Presentations and panel discussions throughout the forum addressed broad economic and social trends and highlighted their relevance within Alaska.



Seminars on Innovation & Entrepreneurship

5. Pandemic Influenza—Planning & Preparedness

What preparations are underway to assist Alaskan families and communities with the possible effects of avian flu in the wild migratory birds that are an integral part of the diet of many Alaska Native families? What is the current status of monitoring wild birds? The panel discussed the state's pandemic influenza plan and efforts to ensure that Alaskans across the state have the information they need to deal effectively with this potentially high-impact issue.

Mike Bradley, Program Manager, Traditional Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Moderator)

Patricia Cochran, Executive Director, Alaska Native Science Commission

Richard Mandsager, Director of Public Health Department of Health & Social Services, State of Alaska

6. Culture & Development in a Globalizing World

This panel offered a frank discussion on how globalization is affecting Native cultures in Alaska. How have other indigenous communities handled this challenge around the world? What are the pros and cons of economic development in an indigenous setting? Can Alaska Natives honor their heritage and be economically successful at the same time?

Bernice Joseph, Executive Dean, College of Rural & Community Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks (Moderator)

Steve J. Langdon, Professor of Anthropology, University of Alaska Anchorage

Eugene Asicksik, President/CEO, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

Rosita Worl, President, Sealaska Heritage Institute



Audience participation helped guide the forum discussion toward issues impacting economic development in Alaska.

7. Alaska Marketplace Partnership Seminar—Building on Success in 2007

This interactive seminar was designed for anyone interested in learning how AFN ran America's first Marketplace, modeled after the World Bank's Development Marketplace. Businesses and organizations that were considering providing financial and in-kind support to the second Alaska Marketplace were particularly encouraged to attend. For more information, visit www.alaskamarketplace.org

Linda Nickell, Business Director, Telecommunications Development Fund (Moderator)

Carla Beam, Director, Community Affairs, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.

Dennis Metrokin, President/CEO, Koniag Inc.

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